

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

Mr. LARSON. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 19, 1999, my plane from Hartford to Washington was delayed and I unavoidably missed rollcall votes numbered 308, 309, and 310. Had I been present in the House Chamber, I would have voted "aye" on all three of these votes.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CIGARS
ARE NO SAFE ALTERNATIVE
ACT OF 1999

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Cigars Are No Safe Alternative Act of 1999, legislation which is similar to a bill I introduced during the 105th Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) for the report it is releasing today which reveals dramatic increases in sales, advertising, marketing and promotion of cigars in 1996 and 1997. The FTC Report confirms my worst suspicions that despite serious and deadly health risks, cigar use is up dramatically in the United States over the last five years. Cigar consumption has skyrocketed by 57% from 1993 to 1998. Advertising and marketing budgets grew by 32% over the two years studied—and every expenditure category saw a substantial increase—newspaper advertising grew by a whopping 254%. This comes on top of the February 1999 report by the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services that, "cigars are an emerging public health risk."

It can not be put more plainly: Cigars are not a safe alternative to cigarettes and it's time to clear the smoky haze regarding this deadly product. The legislation I am introducing today, the Cigars Are No Safe Alternative Act of 1999, will prohibit the sale and distribution of cigars to any individual who is under the age of 18. It will impose restrictions on the sale and advertising of cigars directed at youth, and eliminate cigar advertising on electronic media. It will encourage cigar manufacturers to end the practice of paying for, or participating in cigar product placements in movies and on television where a substantial segment of the viewing audience is under the age of 18 by requiring them to report on each such payment as it occurs. And it will direct the FTC to require warning labels on cigars to warn cigar users about the health risks presented by cigars.

The CANSA Act will also require the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to conduct a study on the health effects of occasional cigar smoking, nicotine dependence among cigar smokers, biological uptake of carcinogenic constituents of cigars, and environmental cigar smoke exposure. It will further require the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to report to Congress on the sales, marketing, and advertising practices associated with cigars—essentially updates to the report the FTC released today. And finally, the Secretary of HHS, acting in cooperation with the FDA, the FTC, and the Department of Treasury, will be required to monitor trends in youth access to, and use of, cigars and notify Congress of the results.

Cigar regulations are the orphan of our government's tobacco control policy. And the trends on sales and marketing are getting worse, not better. The dangers associated with cigars must be exposed just as intensely as those associated with cigarettes and smokeless tobacco. Cigars should not be glamorized, they should be recognized as deadly health threats.

Mr. Speaker, I am particularly concerned that among adolescents, cigars are being perceived as more glamorous and less dangerous than cigarettes. A 1997 CDC Youth Risk Behavior Survey revealed that over 30 percent of high school boys and over 10 percent of high school girls had smoked a cigar in the month before the survey was done. Those numbers are very troubling, and I am hopeful that the legislation I am filing today will drive home the point that cigars are not a safe alternative to cigarettes, period.

Cigars emit greater amounts of tar, nicotine, and carbon monoxide, and substantially higher amounts of ammonia and a number of other cancer causing agents than cigarettes emit.

Congress must apply the same standard to cigars as it does to cigarettes with respect to youth access and marketing and advertising restrictions, and ensure that teenagers are not seduced by the cigar industry's slick and sophisticated marketing strategy—through magazines like "Cigar Aficionado" and others.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Cigars Are No Safe Alternative Act of 1999.

TRIBUTE TO DR. INGE GENEFEKE
AND THE INTERNATIONAL REHA-
BILITATION COUNCIL FOR TOR-
TURE VICTIMS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a pleasure for me to call to the attention of my colleagues the work of an extraordinary

woman, Dr. Inge Genefke, and the institution which she established, the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims. Dr. Genefke, a Danish physician, is an outstanding humanitarian and a distinguished medical doctor who uses her training and compassion to bring healing to those who have endured the pain of torture and abuse inflicted by repressive governments with whose policies or ideologies these unfortunate victims have questioned.

Today, at the end of the 20th century, some experts say that one-third of the 185 member states of the United Nations still practice torture or tolerate its use, and torture has been a dark side of human history for centuries.

The clinic which Dr. Genefke established in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1979 was the first of its kind anywhere in the world which was devoted specifically to treating such victims of torture. Dr. Genefke's unique mission—fighting for the forgotten victims and survivors of torture around the world—makes her one of the great heroines of humanity.

Mr. Speaker, Reader's Digest published an excellent article in March 1999 on Dr. Genefke and her humanitarian work. I urge my colleagues to read this article and to join me in paying tribute to this courageous and compassionate woman.

[From Reader's Digest, Mar. 1999]

SHE HEALS TORTURED SOULS

THANKS TO THE DEDICATED WORK OF DR. INGE GENEFEKE, THE LIVES OF TENS OF THOUSANDS HAVE BEEN SALVAGED

(By Lawrence Elliott)

Miguel Lee, desperate to find release from his inner agonies, came one day to a clinic at the University Hospital in Copenhagen, Denmark. But when he saw the white coats of the hospital staff he began to tremble.

"What's the matter," Dr. Inge Genefke asked him. He couldn't tell her. It was too black a memory.

But Miguel was able to speak of the anxiety that raged in his stomach, the headaches that felt like spikes being driven into his skull, the nightmares that jolted him into shrieking wakefulness and terrified his family.

Dr. Genefke listened carefully. Miguel sensed her concern; he trusted her. And finally he told her of the echoing torture chamber, night after night, when they wired his head to an instrument and sent excruciating electric shocks surging through his ears.

Dr. Genefke asked him about the white coats. "The doctors wore white coats," he said. "And there was always a doctor in the torture room to make sure you didn't die. Dying was too good for us."

Once he had been a respected union leader and the head of a loving family. Now, after three years of imprisonment and torture by the junta that seized power in Chile in 1973 and three years of exile to Denmark, Lee is broken in mind and body.

Doctors assure him they understand how terrible the torture must have been. But

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.